Paddy procurement centres in Bihar

†163. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of paddy procurement centres operating in Bihar;

(b) the quantum of paddy procured so far by them; and

(c) the procurement prices thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) During the Kharif Marketing Season 2000-2001, Food Corporation of India has opened 40 procurement centres in addition to 512 purchase centres being operated by the State Agencies.

(b) A quantity of 5348 MT and 5000 MT of paddy have been procured by the Food Corporation of India and the State Agencies respectively upto 12.2.2001.

(c) Paddy has been procured on Minimum Support Prices fixed by the Government of India which are as follows:

Common	:	Rs. 510/- per quintal
Grade 'A'	:	Rs. 540/- per quintal

†. Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.